the basis of the Useful Heat Value (UHV) for non-coking coal and for coal classified as coking coal is the ash content and further for coal classified as semi-coking and weakly coking, the ash plus moisture content of such coal.

(b) with a view to improving the quality of coal produced in the country, the following steps have been proposed/ taken;

(i) segregation of stones and shales at the time of loading;

(ii) ensuring better supervision to maintain quality control and developing quality consciousness among workers, supervisors and executives engaged in mining and despatch of coal.

(iii) installation of Coal Handing Plants and feeder breakers etc.

(iv) collection of samples from coal despatches for the purpose of quality control.

(v) installation of a number of coal washeries for beneficiating both coking/ non-coking coal.

Pollution in Coal fields

3499. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing pollution in the coal fields of Orissa and Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps taken to check the air and water pollution in those coal fields;

(c) whether any action plan has been drawn up for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA):(a) to (b) coal mining activities (including coalfields in Orissa and Bihar) particularly the opencast have an adverse effect on the environment due to degradation of land, air and water pollution etc. However in order to mitigate the adverse effects due to mining operations action is taken for implementation of environmental protective measures viz. land reclamation, afforestation, control of air and water pollution etc.

Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) which include the details of Environmental protective measures are an integral part of coal project. These EMPs incorporate the mitigative measures to be undertaken viz. land reclamation, afforestation and control of air, water pollution and rehabilitation etc. The implementation of these EMPs are also monitored by the coal companies and the Government.

Disputes outstanding on account of quality of Coal between CIL and Power Sector

3500. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been a large number of disputes outstanding on account of quality of coal between the Coal India Limited and the power sector;

(b) if so, the details as to the number and nature of these disputes, money involved for the last three years;

(c) whether a decision has been taken that sampling of coal will be done at the loading end;

(d) whether this decision has been implemented; and

(e) if not, reasons thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Complaints are generally on account of over-size/under-size and presence of stones, shales and other non-coal material in coal. Although precise number of complaints are not readily available, company-wise total deductions as well as deductions made on account of quality by the power houses during